

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0001] as follows:

[0001] The present invention relates to an arrangement for securing contact straps for multiphase switching devices, in particular for contactors, ~~as set forth in the preamble of Claim 1 in which~~ the incoming and outgoing contact straps secured in the switching device housing each have a connecting terminal at their outer end and lead to a stationary contact member with their inner end. The stationary contact member is brought into operative contact with a movable contact member.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0002]:

BACKGROUND

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0004]:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] It is therefore ~~the~~ an object of the present invention to allow easy mounting and removal of the contact straps.

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] ~~Starting from an arrangement of the type mentioned at the outset, this objective is achieved according to the present invention by the features of the independent claim while advantageous refinements of the invention will be apparent from the dependent claims.~~

The present invention provides an arrangement for securing contact straps for multiphase switching devices where the switching device housing has straight guide elements for receiving contact straps in their installed position. Each contact strap is provided with a through-hole which, in the installed position, coincides with a receiving hole formed in the switching device housing. Insertion pins extend through the through-holes and into the associated receiving holes. A connecting web combines with said insertion pins to form an insertion comb made of insulating material.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] The straight guide elements and the receiving holes in the switching device housing, the through-holes in the contact straps and the one insertion comb per terminal side may provide an arrangement for securing contact straps which enables the contact straps to be firmly secured in position with a few translational assembly movements. Thus, the process of securing the contact straps can be easily automated. In the arrangement of the present invention, there is no need for a female thread in the contact straps or in the switching device housing, or for threaded plates, and the retaining elements needed for screw connections may be ~~are~~ dispensed with. Because ~~there are~~ no iron parts are needed, the conduction of current through the contact straps is not magnetically influenced in a negative way. Both the final attachment and the removal of all contact straps of a terminal side may be ~~is~~ carried out with a single movement of the hand by insertion and withdrawal of the insertion comb into and from the through-holes and receiving holes. When the housing cover of the switching device is removed, only two manual operations are required per terminal side for toolless mounting and removal of the contact straps, said manual operations being simple and quick to perform. The insertion comb is much easier to manipulate compared to smaller screws and retaining elements. To facilitate recycling, the insertion comb can be injection-molded from recoverable material. The insertion comb used, which is made of molded insulating material, facilitates compliance with clearance and creepage distance requirements to a significant degree. This problem is increasing in importance due to the trend toward switching devices of smaller and smaller size. The surface of the connecting web of the insertion comb can be used in a practical way for attaching instructions for the customer.

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] Advantageously, the insertion combs may be ~~are~~ clamped with their insertion pins in the through-holes and/or are held down by a housing cover of the switching device.

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] To prevent the contact straps inserted in the guide elements from falling out before the insertion comb is inserted, the contact straps may be ~~are~~ provided with knobs which bring the

contact straps into clamping contact with the guide elements as they are inserted into said guide elements.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0012]:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0016]:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF AN EMBODIMENT

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016]The drawing shows the arrangement for securing contact straps, including the parts of a multi-pole switching device 2 in the form of a three-pole contactor that are useful ~~essential~~ to illustrate one embodiment of the invention. Switching device 2 is surrounded by a switching device housing 4, of which only the upper housing part is depicted in the drawing. Switching device housing 4 is closed at the front by a removable housing cover 6, as shown in Figure 1. For each current phase, one incoming and one outgoing contact strap 8 is secured in switching device housing 4. Each contact strap 8 is provided at its outer end with a connecting terminal 12 extending into the respective terminal compartment 10, and has a stationary contact member 14 at its inner end. The contact straps 8 belonging to a phase are electrically connected and disconnected by a contact bridge in a usual manner; stationary contact members 14 being brought into and out of contact with movable contact members attached to the contact bridge.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] The present invention is not limited to the specific embodiments described above but includes also all equally acting embodiments along the lines of the present invention. Thus, for example, the present invention can be developed such that the insertion pins have single or crisscross slits 29 as shown in Fig. 2 along their longitudinal axis in order to produce an elastic clamping force.

Please amend the heading on top of page 7 as follows:

PATENT CLAIMS-WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: